



2009 Help America Vote Act Accessibility Grant Application

Indiana Secretary of State, Todd Rokita

November 13, 2009

HAVA Accessibility Reimbursement Application

Date issued: November 13, 2009

The Indiana Secretary of State has been awarded funds from a grant established under the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). This grant is administered by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities of the United States Department of Health and Human Services. The purpose of the grant is to improve access to polling places as required by state law and HAVA. Indiana's awards from this program for Federal Fiscal years 2003-2009 have totaled \$1,442,019.00. Funds from this grant have been used to pay expenses incurred: 1) to conduct a survey of Indiana's polling locations, 2) for training, education and outreach expenses related to accessibility matters, 3) to purchase items used by many counties to help improve the accessibility of their polling places, and 4) as reimbursements to counties that made additional improvements to polling places.

This year, the office has developed a new program available to Indiana's 92 counties. In past years, the grant has been based on reimbursements tied to the number of precincts in each county. This year, the Indiana Secretary of State will offer 55 grants on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be 25 grants of \$5,000, 25 grants of \$10,000, and 5 grants of \$25,000, for a total of \$500,000. The change in this process is intended to encourage counties to improve the accessibility of their polling places regardless of the number of precincts and make voting more accessible for the disabilities community. Counties will be eligible for any **one** of the available grants. Grants not awarded will remain in the state's account for future accessibility needs.

Under this new program, counties may be required to use their own funds to complete projects that exceed the grant award. If the entire grant is not used, the county may retain the funds for future accessibility improvements. If a county wishes to obtain funds less than the grant awarded, those unused funds will remain in the state's account for future use. It is the intent of the office to continue to apply annually to receive these funds from the federal government when they are made available. Likewise, future opportunities at obtaining grant funds on the local level will likely be made available to you.

These grants may be used to pay for county-owned, privately-owned or not-for-profit-owned facilities as long as they are used as polling places. These grants may also be used to improve accessibility or other features of the election process for the disabled. The grant may be collected by the county on behalf of the private owner and then distributed to said owner. **It is strongly advised that the county and facility owner sign an agreement that allows for the continued use of the facility as a polling place if these grant funds are paid for any accessibility upgrades.** Counties may be required to pay back funds used on a facility where accessibility improvements were made but is no longer a polling place. Improvements made to facilities no longer used as polling places are not eligible for reimbursement. This grant **cannot** be used for the purchase of voting systems.

In order for a county to be considered for one of the available grants, the attached contact information and a project plan with cost estimates or a budget **will be required**. Applications will be reviewed and approved by the Indiana Secretary of State and Co-directors of the Indiana Election Division. Preferences for competing applications will be determined by: 1) the application's submission date and time, 2) the reasonableness of the project plan, and 3) the project's budget. If a county's grant preference is unavailable, its application will be considered for a grant award of a lesser amount.

Applications will be accepted **beginning December 1, 2009 and must be returned no later than 5:00 PM on February 1, 2010. Applications received prior to the start date will not be accepted and late applications will not be considered for reimbursement.**

Counties will be notified of their grant award upon approval of a county's application, and reimbursements will be made in early 2010.

Please send your completed application to:

Joseph McLain, HAVA Administrator
Indiana Secretary of State Todd Rokita
302 West Washington Street, Room E-111
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

If you have questions, please call Joseph McLain at (317) 234-8683, or e-mail him at havaadministrator@sos.IN.gov.

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County Polling Place Accessibility Reimbursement Application
November 13, 2009

County _____

Contact Information:

Name _____

Title _____

Address _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Fax _____

E-Mail _____

Grant Preference (please initial one):

_____ **\$5,000 grant (25 available)**

_____ **\$10,000 grant (25 available)**

_____ **\$25,000 grant (5 available)**

Please include a project plan and budget on a separate sheet for your accessibility improvements.